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# Improved Outcomes in CKD with a Plant Forward Approach

## TODAY'S AGENDA:

- Introduction & Housekeeping
- Speaker Introduction
- Presentation
- Q&A
- Closing



## WEBINAR HOST:

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VP of Healthcare, Sports & Professional Education  
Orgain, LLC



## WEBINAR PRESENTER:

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Registered Dietitian  
University of Chicago  
The Kidney Dietitian Blog ([thekidneydietitian.org](https://thekidneydietitian.org))

# Improved Outcomes in CKD with a Plant Forward Approach

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# Outline

Benefits of plant based diets in kidney disease

- Delayed progression CKD

- Acidosis

- Gut health

- Phosphorus

- Potassium

- Dialysis & mortality

# Chronic Kidney Disease Stats

Affects 37 million people (1 in 7 adults) in US

80 million people (1 in 3 adults) in US *at risk* of kidney disease

90% of people with kidney disease *don't know they have it*

9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in U.S

\$120 billion annual Medicare dollars for all stages CKD (~15% total budget)

\$84 billion on ESRD

## What I Was Taught in School



## What I Recommend Now



### Traditional “Renal Diet” Approach:

- Tends to be non-individualized & generic
- Reduces food to nutrients
  - Sodium
  - Potassium
  - Phosphorus
- Resulted in diet drastically reduced in generally healthy things!
  - Fiber
  - Most vitamins & minerals
  - Antioxidants
- Maybe not the best for our patients?

# Plant-Based Diet Definition

No formal definition

Just eat more plants!

Average US Intake: 0.9 servings fruits & 1.4 servings vegetables

Examples:

Vegan or Vegetarian Diet

Mediterranean Diet

DASH Diet

MIND Diet



# Benefits of Plant-Based Diets & CKD

- ➔ Delayed decline of kidney function
- ➔ Improved acid-base balance
- ➔ Improved gut health
- ➔ Reduced bioavailability of phosphorus
- ➔ Better potassium control?
- ➔ Reduced mortality in dialysis?

In line with recommendations for common co-morbid conditions

*Diabetes*

*Hypertension*

*Hypercholesterolemia*

*Heart Failure*

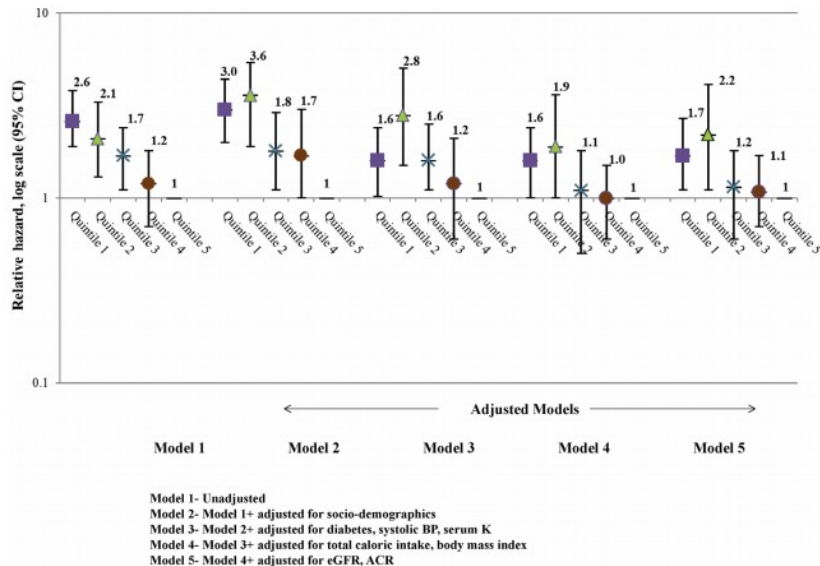
**= Improved control CKD!**

Potentially improved adherence, quality of life and food satisfaction!

# Delayed Decline of Kidney Function



# Lower Risk of ESRD with DASH in CKD Patients



**Figure 1 | Longitudinal association of baseline Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension diet adherence score quintile with progression to end-stage renal disease among U.S. adults aged 20 and over with moderate chronic kidney disease and hypertension, unadjusted and adjusted for covariates. Median follow-up, 7.8 years (25th–75th percentiles, 4.7–12.4). (CI, confidence interval.)**

# Less GFR Decline with “Prudent” and DASH Eating Patterns

**Table 5.** Odds Ratios for eGFR Decline  $\geq 30\%$  by Quartiles of Diet Pattern Scores

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Western</b>				
Age and energy intake adjusted	1.00 (reference)	1.37 (0.98-1.93)	1.84 (1.29-2.64)	1.95 (1.27-2.97)
Multivariable <sup>a</sup>	1.00 (reference)	1.22 (0.87-1.73)	1.57 (1.08-2.28)	1.48 (0.95-2.30)
Multivariable + analgesic medication use <sup>b</sup>	1.00 (reference)	1.22 (0.86-1.72)	1.52 (1.04-2.20)	1.40 (0.90-2.19)
Multivariable + high cholesterol or lipid-lowering drug	1.00 (reference)	1.23 (0.87-1.73)	1.57 (1.08-2.26)	1.46 (0.94-2.28)
Multivariable + diabetes duration	1.00 (reference)	1.22 (0.86-1.72)	1.58 (1.09-2.29)	1.46 (0.94-2.28)
<b>Prudent</b>				
Age and energy intake adjusted	1.00 (reference)	1.44 (1.05-1.97)	1.06 (0.76-1.48)	0.78 (0.53-1.13)
Multivariable <sup>a</sup>	1.00 (reference)	1.43 (1.04-1.98)	1.07 (0.76-1.51)	0.81 (0.55-1.19)
Multivariable + analgesic medication use <sup>b</sup>	1.00 (reference)	1.44 (1.04-1.98)	1.10 (0.78-1.56)	0.82 (0.56-1.21)
Multivariable + high cholesterol or lipid-lowering drug	1.00 (reference)	1.45 (1.05-2.00)	1.09 (0.77-1.54)	0.84 (0.57-1.23)
Multivariable + diabetes duration	1.00 (reference)	1.44 (1.04-1.98)	1.07 (0.76-1.51)	0.81 (0.55-1.19)
<b>DASH-style</b>				
Age and energy intake adjusted	1.00 (reference)	0.87 (0.64-1.18)	0.79 (0.58-1.09)	0.51 (0.36-0.72)
Multivariable <sup>a</sup>	1.00 (reference)	0.86 (0.63-1.17)	0.79 (0.57-1.09)	0.55 (0.38-0.80)
Multivariable + analgesic medication use <sup>b</sup>	1.00 (reference)	0.88 (0.65-1.21)	0.82 (0.60-1.13)	0.57 (0.39-0.83)
Multivariable + high cholesterol or lipid lowering drug	1.00 (reference)	0.86 (0.63-1.18)	0.79 (0.58-1.09)	0.55 (0.38-0.79)
Multivariable + diabetes duration	1.00 (reference)	0.87 (0.64-1.18)	0.79 (0.58-1.09)	0.55 (0.38-0.80)

Abbreviations: eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; DASH, Dietary Approach to Hypertension; NSAIDs, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; Q, quartile.

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for age, hypertension, body mass index, physical activity (METs/week), energy intake, cigarette smoking, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and angiotensin-converting enzyme-inhibitor/angiotensin receptor blocker medication use (alcohol intake and



# Reduced Risk Death in CKD

Reduced all cause mortality in CKD

Plant based diet scores associated with reduced risk mortality (0.77: 95% CI: 0.61-0.97)

Southern diet scores associated with increased risk mortality (1.51: 95% CI: 1.19-1.95)

No significant difference in CKD progression

# Improved Acid/Base Balance

# Metabolic Acidosis in CKD

Definition: Serum Bicarbonate ( $\text{CO}_2$ )  $<22\text{mEq/L}$

Prevalence

13% CKD stage 3

40% by CKD stage 4

Acid retention early in CKD

Causes in CKD

Impaired ammonia excretion

Reduced bicarbonate reabsorption

Reduced bicarbonate production

• Consequences:

- Increased bone resorption
- Increased muscle catabolism
- Aggravation secondary hyperparathyroidism
- Systemic inflammation
- Impaired myocardial contractility
- ***Increased mortality***
- ***Progression of CKD***

# Dietary Acid Production

Diet is the main contributor to acid that must be excreted by the kidney

Balance of:

Endogenous acid production ( $H^+$ )

*Primarily from protein (especially sulfur containing amino acids methionine & cysteine) that are metabolized to cation*

Alkali intestinal absorption

*Primarily from fruits & veggies*

*Metabolized to produce bicarbonate or anion*

Measuring Acid Load

Net Acid Excretion (NAE, requires 24-hour urine test)

Potential Renal Acid Load (PRAL)

Net Endogenous Acid Production (NEAP)

GI alkali absorption



# Potential Renal Acid Load (PRAL)

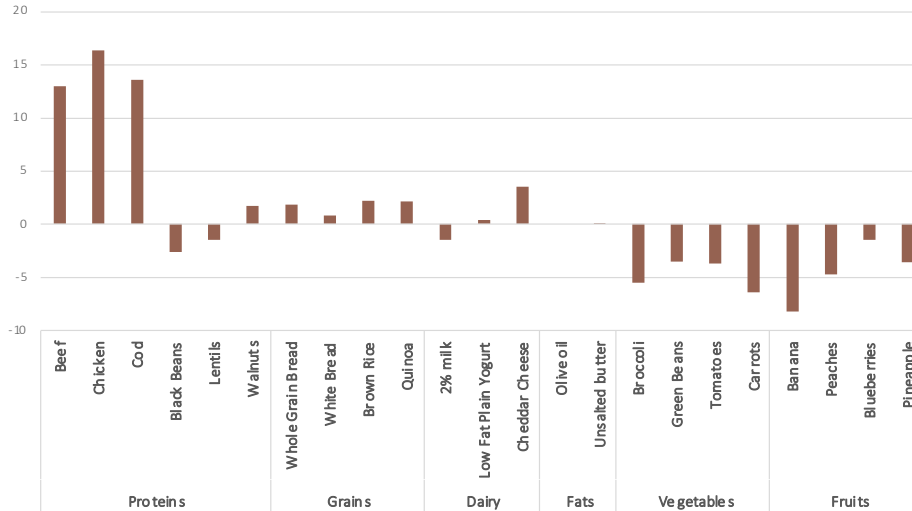
High acid load in typical US Diet

50-75 mEq/day

Vegan (or near vegan) diet: -43.5 - -39.0 mEq/day



# Potential Renal Acid Load (per standard portion)



High acid load in typical US Diet  
50-75 mEq/day

Vegan (or near vegan) diet: -43.5 - -39.0 mEq/day



# Treat Acidosis with Fruits & Veggies!

CKD stage 4 patients randomized to receive bicarbonate or fruits & veggies

Fruits & vegetables group were given free produce

Prescribed by RD to lower PRAL by ½

*Enough produce for all people in household!*

After 1 year, fruit & vegetable group:

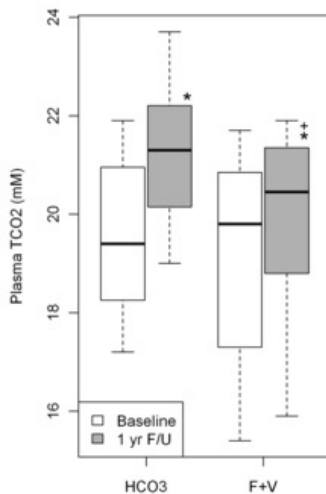
Lower body weight (78 vs 84kg)

Lower Systolic blood pressure (131.7 vs. 136.0 mmHg)

Lower PRAL (39.6 vs. 59.3 mEq/day)

Lower CO<sub>2</sub> in both groups

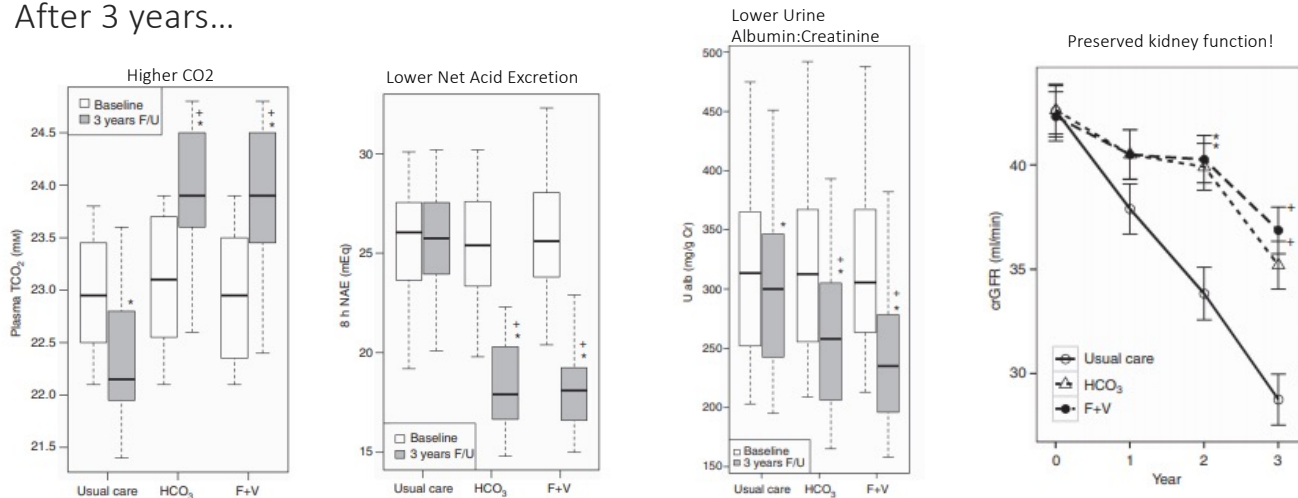
NO difference in plasma potassium or GFR



# Treat Acidosis EARLY with Fruits & Veggies!

108 CKD stage 3 patients randomized to usual care, fruits & veggies OR bicarbonate (not necessarily  $\text{CO}_2 < 22$ )

After 3 years...



Improved Gut Health

# Microbiome & CKD

CKD causes systemic inflammation ↔ Inflammation exacerbates CKD

Changes in gut microbiome identified as a significant source of inflammation in CKD

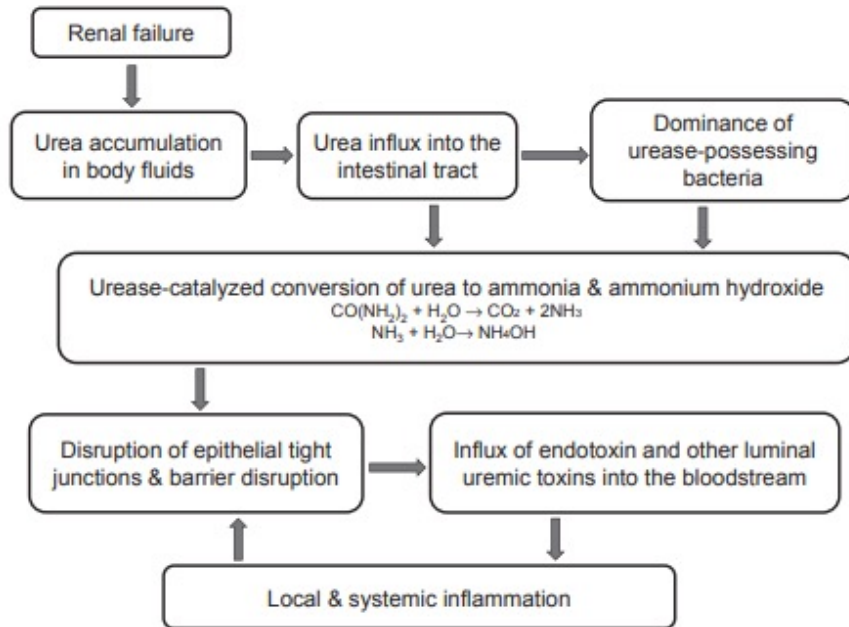
Inflammatory markers increase as CKD progresses

Need more research

- Do probiotics, prebiotics or diet changes result in changes to gut microbiota?

- Does a change in gut microbiota result in reduced inflammation and CKD progression?

Generally, high fiber/fruits & vegetable diets associated with improvements in microbiome



# Microbiome & CKD – Increased risk CVD

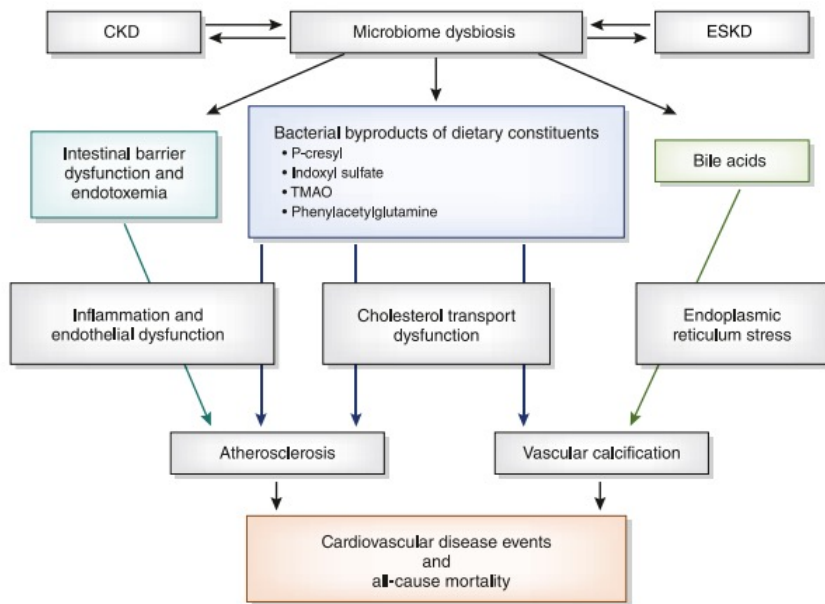


Figure 1. | Mechanisms by which microbiome dysbiosis in kidney disease may lead to cardiovascular disease. TMAO, trimethylamine-N-oxide.

# Reduced Absorption of Phosphorus

# 2020 KDOQI/AND Guidelines

## Dietary Phosphorus Source: CKD 1-5D & Post-Transplant

“Consider the bioavailability of phosphorus sources” (OPINION)

## CKD 3-5 & Hemodialysis

“Adjust dietary phosphorus to maintain serum phosphate levels in the normal range”  
(1B)

No absolute amount of phosphorus recommended.



4oz, cooked chicken  
breast



Calories: 182  
Protein: 34g  
Potassium: 408mg  
Phosphorus: 260mg

½ cup black beans



Calories: 57  
Protein: 8g  
Potassium: 306mg  
Phosphorus: 121mg

## Amount of Phosphorus Absorbed



# 4oz cooked chicken breast



Calories: 182  
Protein: 34g  
Potassium: 408mg  
Phosphorus: ~~260mg~~ 234mg

# ½ cup black beans



Calories: 57  
Protein: 8g  
Potassium: 306mg  
Phosphorus: ~~121mg~~ 61mg

# Phosphorus Food Additives

Contribute 300-1000mg phosphorus per day

Can increase phosphate content of food up to 70%

Are becoming more common in food supply

37% of foods consumed

Common in many OTC and prescribed medications in CKD

Norvasc, Amiloride, Januvia, Epogen, Tums, Crestor, Zolof

Often not reflected in dietary analysis nutrient databases



**Ingredients:** Enriched Corn Meal (Corn Meal, Ferrous Sulfate, Niacin, Thiamin Mononitrate, Riboflavin, and Folic Acid), Vegetable Oil (Contains One or More of the Following: Corn, Soybean, or Sunflower Oil), Whey, Salt, Cheddar Cheese (Cultured Milk, Salt, Enzymes), Partially Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Maltodextrin, Disodium Phosphate, Sour Cream (Cultured Cream, Niacin, Milk), Artificial Flavor, Monosodium Glutamate, Lactic Acid, Artificial Colors (Including Yellow 6), and Citric Acid.  
**CONTAINS MILK INGREDIENTS.**

## Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 oz.

Amount Per Serving

Calories 160 Calories from Fat 90

% Daily Value\*

Total Fat 10g 15%

Saturated Fat 1.5g 8%

Trans Fat 0g

Cholesterol 0mg 0%

Sodium 370mg 16%

Total Carbohydrate 15g 5%

Dietary Fiber less than 1g 1%

Sugars less than 1g

Protein 2g

Vitamin A 0% Vitamin C 0%

Calcium 0% Iron 4%

Vitamin E 6% Thiamin 6%

Riboflavin 4% Niacin 4%

Phosphorus 4%

\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

Calories: 2,000 2,500

Total Fat Less than 65g 80g

Sat Fat Less than 20g 25g

Cholesterol Less than 300mg 300mg

Sodium Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg

Total Carbohydrate 300g 375g

Dietary Fiber 25g 30g

Calories per gram:

Fat 9 Carbohydrate 4 Protein 4

Calvo MS, Uribarri J. Contributions to Total Phosphorus Intake: All Sources Considered. *Seminars in Dialysis*. 2013;26(1):54-61.

Benini O, D'Alessandro C, Gianfaldoni D, Cupisti A. Extra-Phosphate Load From Food Additives in Commonly Eaten Foods: A Real and Insidious Danger for Renal Patients. *Journal of Renal Nutrition*. 2011;21(4):303-308.

Picard K. Potassium Additives and Bioavailability: Are We Missing Something in Hyperkalemia Management? *Journal of Renal Nutrition*. 2019;29(4):350-353.

# Common Sources Phosphorus Food Additives

Snack Foods

Processed cheese or dairy (non-dairy creamer)

Frozen prepared foods

Beverages (more than just cola!)

Cereals

Sauces & dressings

Shelf stable prepared foods (canned meals, convenience foods)

Non-dairy creamer

RESTAURANTS & FAST FOOD



Possible Better  
Potassium Control?

# Potassium

Hyperkalemia in kidney disease

- Accounts for 25% of emergent dialysis treatments

- Leads to abdominal cramping, weakness, paresthesia, cardiac arrhythmias and cardiac arrest

Little to no research to support a low potassium diet for CKD or ESRD

Other factors that can impact potassium

- Medications

- Residual kidney function

- Hydration status

- Acid-base status**

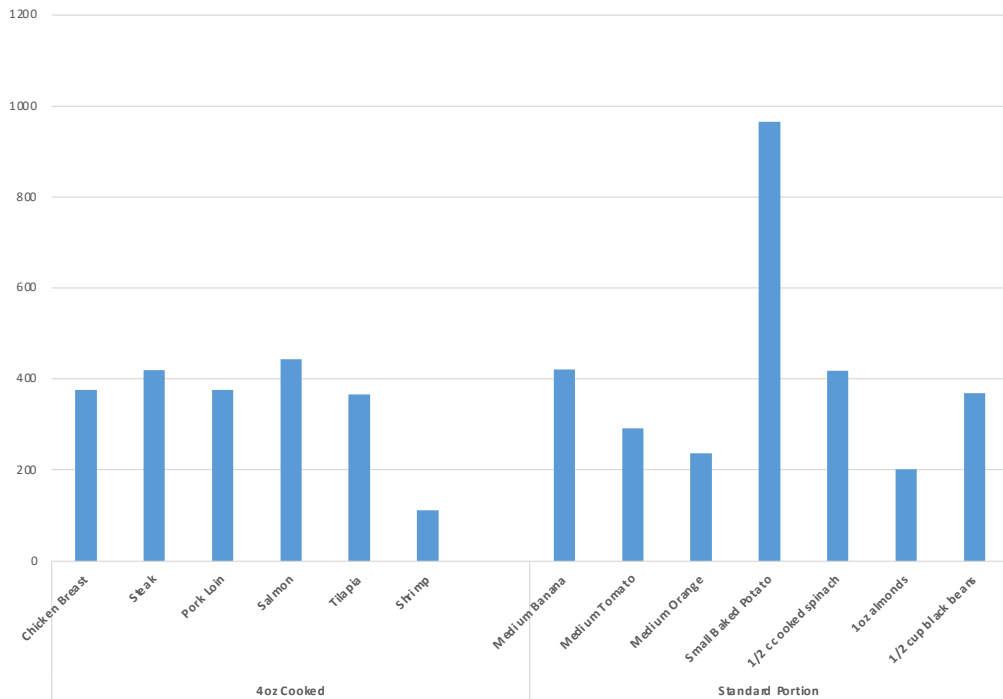
- Glycemic control**

- Adrenal function

- Catabolism

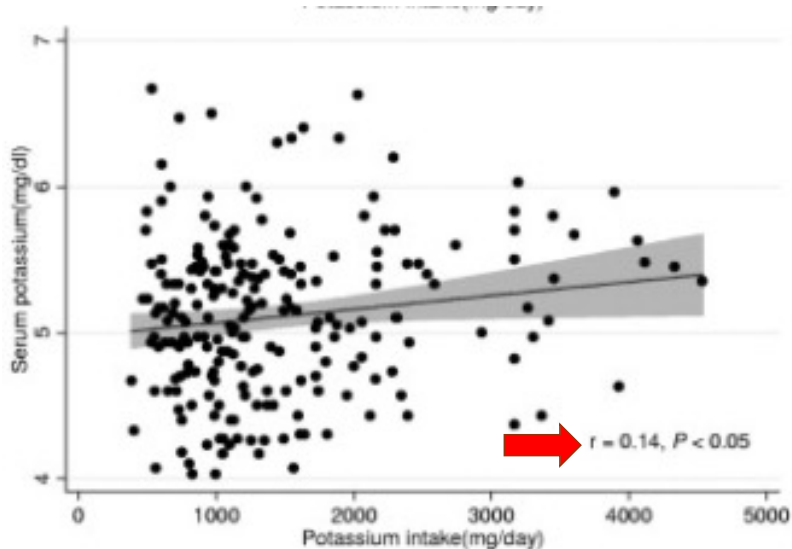
- GI (vomiting, diarrhea, **constipation**, bleeding)

# Potassium Content of Foods

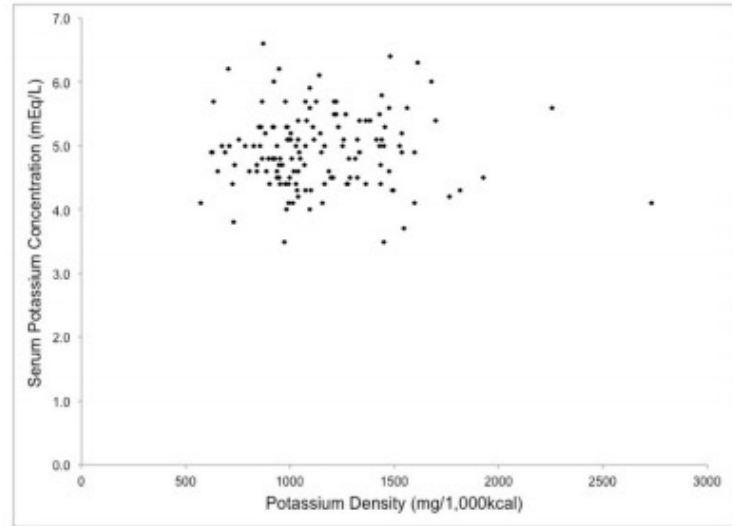
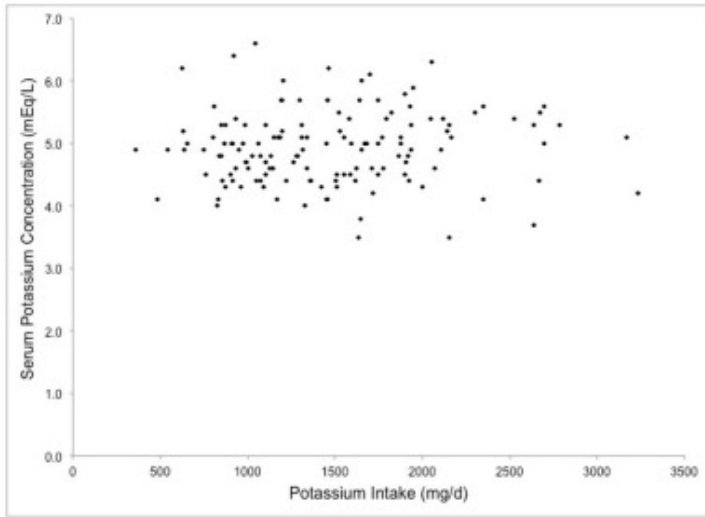




# Potassium Intake $\neq$ Serum Potassium



# Potassium Intake & Potassium Diet Density $\neq$ Serum Potassium



# Potassium & Acid-Base Balance

In acidic environments, more potassium shifts to extracellular compartments (↑ serum potassium)

Higher bicarbonate dialysate results in faster lowering of serum potassium, despite removing less potassium

Remember:

- Meat has a HUGE acid load (PRAL)

- Adding fruits and veggies reduced acidosis

# Potassium & Insulin Resistance

Insulin helps shift potassium into cells

Lower peak in serum potassium if glucose is provided with meal<sup>2,3</sup>

In fasted state, see higher peak in serum potassium with potassium challenge<sup>3</sup>

High prevalence of insulin resistance in CKD (diabetes 2<sup>nd</sup> cause of CKD)

Plant based diets associated with improved insulin sensitivity

1. St-Jules D, Goldfarb D, Sevick M. Nutrient non-equivalence: Does restricting high-potassium plant foods help to prevent hyperkalemia in hemodialysis patients? *J Ren Nutr*. 2016;26(5):282-287. doi:10.1053/j.jrn.2016.02.005

2. Hc G, Cr K, Me R, Mh M. Functional impairment in chronic renal disease. 3. Studies of potassium excretion. *Am J Med Sci*. 1971;261(5):281-290. doi:10.1097/0000441-197105000-00007

3. Allon M, Dansby L, Shanklin N. Glucose modulation of the disposal of an acute potassium load in patients with end-stage renal disease. *Am J Med*. 1993;94(5):475-482. doi:10.1016/0002-9343(93)90081-Y

# Excretion of Potassium in Stool

Eventually, potassium must be removed from body

90% of potassium removed by kidneys in healthy people<sup>1</sup>

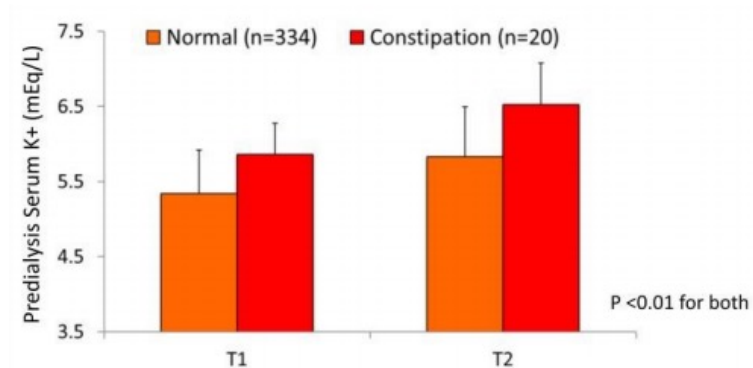
3x higher stool potassium excretion in dialysis (37% vs. 12%)<sup>2</sup>

Stool potassium excretion directly related to potassium intake<sup>2</sup>

About half of HD patients report constipation<sup>3</sup>

Up to 19% in CKD (need more studies)<sup>4</sup>

Constipation associated with higher serum potassium in HD patients<sup>5</sup>



1. St-Jules D, Goldfarb D, Sevvik M. Nutrient non-equivalence: Does restricting high-potassium plant foods help to prevent hyperkalemia in hemodialysis patients? *J Ren Nutr.* 2016;26(5):282-287.

2. Hayes CP, McLeod ME, Robinson RR. An extrarenal mechanism for the maintenance of potassium balance in severe chronic renal failure. *Trans Assoc Am Physicians.* 1967;80:207-216.

3. Murtagh FEM, Addington-Hall J, Higginson IJ. The prevalence of symptoms in end-stage renal disease: a systematic review. *Adv Chronic Kidney Dis.* 2007;14(1):82-99.

4. Sumida K, Yamagata K, Kovesdy CP. Constipation in CKD. *Kidney Int Rep.* 2019;5(2):121-134.

5. El-Sharkawy M, Khedr E, Abdelwhab S, Ali M, Said KE. Prevalence of Hyperkalemia among Hemodialysis Patients in Egypt. *Renal Failure.* 2009;31(10):891-898.

# Potassium Food Additives

Prevalence in food supply is growing

9% of foods consumed in dialysis patients

Known to be high in meats – especially processed meats

*2-3X higher potassium in enhanced meats*

Often used in “low sodium” products

44% more potassium

Likely more bioavailable than naturally occurring potassium (~90-100% vs. 50-60%)

\*Per 16 fl oz Beverage, This Product 10 Calories; Leading Beverages 130 Calories.

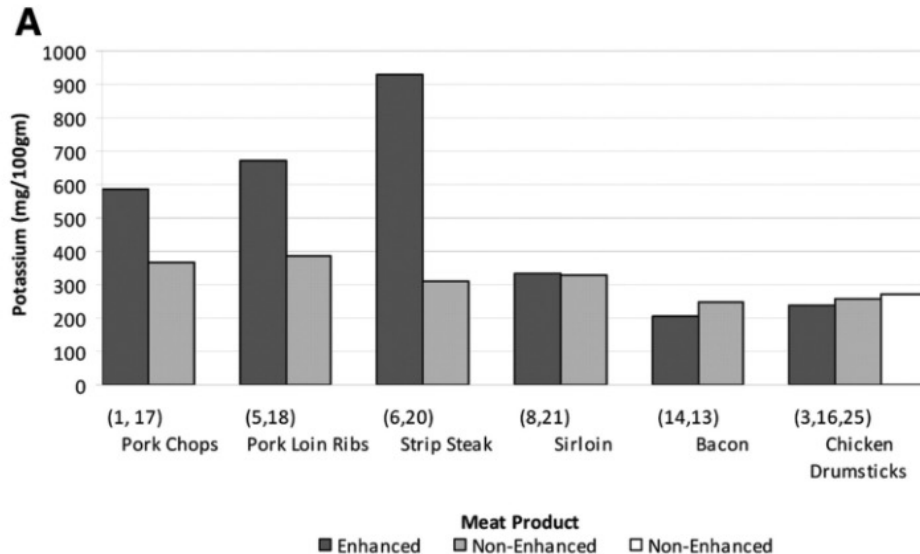
Nutrition Facts	
10 servings per container	
Serving size 1 packet (4g)	
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>10</b>
% Daily Value	
<b>Total Fat</b> 0g	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 75mg	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 3g	<b>1%</b>
Total Sugars 0g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars <b>0%</b>	
<b>Protein</b> 0g	
Potassium 130mg	<b>2%</b>
Not a significant source of saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol, dietary fiber, vitamin D, calcium and iron.	
<b>INGREDIENTS:</b> CITRIC ACID, POTASSIUM CITRATE, SODIUM CITRATE, ASPARTAME, POTASSIUM OXIDE, MALTODEXTRIN, CONTAINS LESS THAN 2% OF NATURAL FLAVOR, ACESULFAME POTASSIUM, SOY LECTHIN, YELLOW 5, ARTIFICIAL COLOR.	
† PHENYLKETONURICS: CONTAINS PHENYLALANINE	
<b>CONTAINS: SOY.</b>	

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**KraftHeinz**

Crystal Light  
Lemonade



# Potassium Food Additives



Reduced Mortality in  
Dialysis?



# Plant Based Diets & Dialysis

Reduced risk of death in peritoneal dialysis patients

10% increase in plant based:total protein =

*71% (95% CI, 90-14%) in all cause mortality*

*89% (95% CI, 98-29%) reduction CVD mortality*

# How is fruit and vegetable intake related to mortality in hemodialysis patients?

## Methods and Cohort



Food frequency questionnaire



Europe and South America HD patients



N = 8078

Median follow-up 2.7 years

## Findings



consumed recommended  $\geq 4$  servings daily



Servings

8

per week

4-14

interquartile range



Deaths

2082

all-cause

954

cardiovascular

## Adjusted HR of all-cause mortality by servings

REFERENCE

LOWEST TERTILE  
(0-5.5, median 2)

0.90

(95% CI 0.81-1.00)

MIDDLE TERTILE  
(5.6-10, median 8)

0.80

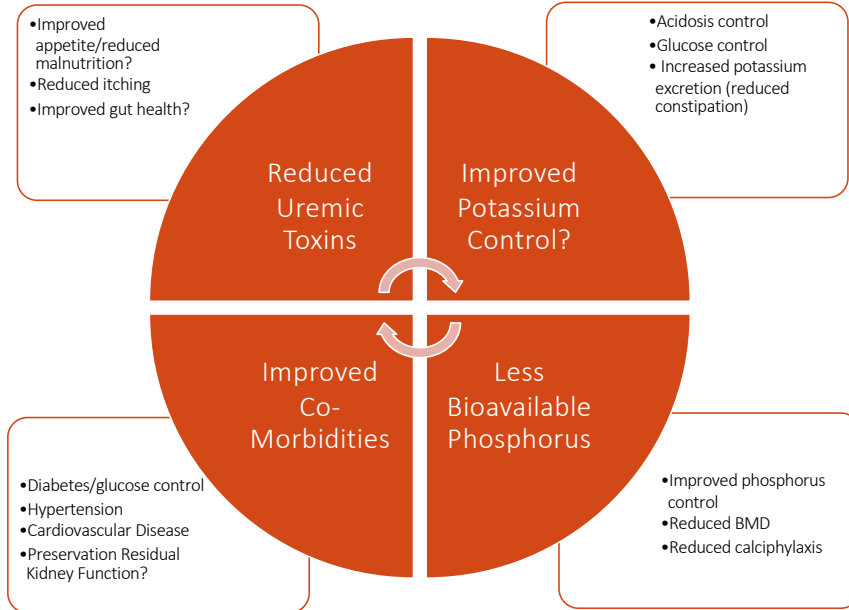
(95% CI 0.71-0.91)

HIGHEST TERTILE  
( $>10$ , median 17)

**Conclusions** Fruit and vegetable intake in the hemodialysis population is low and a higher consumption is associated with lower all-cause and non-cardiovascular death.

Valeria Saglimbene, Germaine Wong, Marinella Ruospo, Suetonia Palmer, et al. **Fruit And Vegetable Intake and Mortality In Adults Undergoing Maintenance Hemodialysis.** CJASN doi: 10.2215/CJN.08580718.  
Visual Abstract by Michelle Lim, MBChB

# Possible Benefits of Plant Based Diet in Dialysis



# Summary

Perhaps more absolute potassium & phosphorus,  
BUT:

- Higher in protein & lower in alkali
  - Faster CKD progression
- More bioavailable phosphorus
- More difficult to control potassium?
  - Likely potassium additives
  - Lacking benefits for:
    - Constipation (control?)
    - Glucose Control
    - Acidosis
- No benefits for blood pressure
- Impact on gut microbiota?
- More Restrictive
  - Reduced food satisfaction and adherence?



# Need More Research!

Large scale intervention trials

Get more professionals on board & further update guidelines

Understand actual impact of diet on potassium & phosphorus control

Adequate protein intake/malnutrition? Especially for dialysis populations

MUCH more to understand effects of diet and/or probiotics on CKD outcomes

Is this do-able for patients?

# Questions?

Thank you!

Melanie Betz

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